

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 94 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
0	511



Lexington

Address 7 Bennington Road

Historic Name Stevens House

Present residential

Original residential

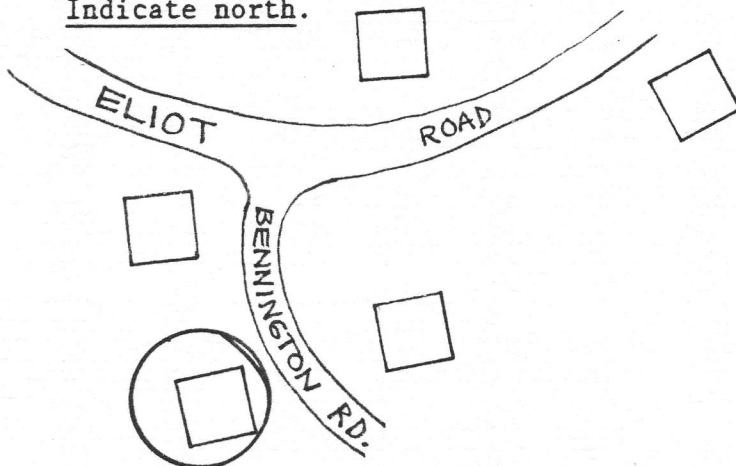
DESCRIPTION:

Date 1896

Source directory research

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Style Shingle Style

Architect

Exterior wall fabric shingles

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates)

Moved Date

Approx. acreage 67919 ft.²

Setting Residential street; substantial

houses of similar or slightly later

construction date.

Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This house is typical of the substantial houses being built on Munroe Hill at the turn of the twentieth century. Shingle Style features of this house include the gambrel roof which extends down to encompass the second level, the recessed band or diamond-paned windows in the gable ends with shingles on either side curved in to meet the recess, and overhanging eave with shingled brackets.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

The house was built by Ralph Leslie Stevens, a cotton merchant in Boston.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, p. 671. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Personal communication from Anne Blackwell.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town Property Address
LEXINGTON 7 BENNINGTON ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

O	511
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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

This house appears to have been constructed for Ralph Leslie Stevens between 1902 and 1904. Ralph L. Stevens was the son of Abram W. Stevens and on October 6, 1900 married Maria Cary Clarke. On June 29, 1901 the newspaper reported that Rev. A.W. Stevens of Bloomfield Street had purchased land on the summit of Mt. Vernon, near Mr. Sias' new residence, and intends building on the premises in the fall" (*Minute Man*, June 29, 1901, p. 1). In the 1902 directory, A. W. Stevens is still living on Bloomfield Street and Ralph is living at the Munroe Estate on Mass. Avenue. The next available directory, 1906, does show Ralph Stevens in residence at 7 Bennington Road while there is no listing for A.W. Stevens. In August 1905 a brief mention of the gardens of Thomas Sias (4 Bennington Road), also notes the gardens of Ralph L. Stevens, opposite the Sias place ("picturesque and inviting and also enjoys the same superb view"). Both Ralph and A.W. Stevens were still living at 7 Bennington Road in 1913.

By 1928 the house was owned and occupied by Sydney Wrightington, a lawyer, and his wife Marian. The property was later inherited by Ann W. Blackwell who conveyed it to W. Russell and Susan Neuman in 1980.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Lexington Directories, various dates.
Lexington Minute-Man, June 29, 1901; August 5, 1905.
Middlesex County Register of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Supplement prepared by:
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January 2009